THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The purpose of the AAVMC’s 50th Anniversary Celebration is much more than an effort to commemorate this important milestone; it is to illuminate the critical role that academic veterinary medicine plays in the modern world.

An AAVMC 50th Anniversary Committee was formed in Fall 2013. The group decided to mount a yearlong celebration leading up to the March 2016 meeting in New Orleans (1966–2016). The AAVMC has developed a series of communication products and special events designed to help member institutions embrace the celebration at the grassroots level and build public awareness and support throughout their service regions.

A six-minute video profile of the AAVMC and a television PSA have been produced. Throughout the anniversary year, these will present the video and profile their institutions for state VMA’s, agricultural, community organizations, university and community audiences and other groups. Communication officers will place the PSA with statewide television stations. Resolutions of recognition and support from state and federal government and major allied organizations will formally commemorate the anniversary year.

A special 50th anniversary edition of the Journal of Veterinary Medical Education in Fall 2015 will commemorate the AAVMC’s 50-year body of work from 1966 to 2016. And noted veterinary medical historian Dr. Gordon Smith will author a History Book. Those publication covers will feature a painting specially commissioned for the anniversary.

And finally, boards of government and corporate leaders will join the AAVMC’s 50th Anniversary Gala Celebration that will feature the on-screen debut of a new PSA. A transformational project conceived to help our colleges and our profession build momentum for the future.

AAVMC Executive Structure

JANE Editors
Dr. W. M. Anderson, 1974–1976
Dr. Richard Telzak, 1984–1990
Dr. Lawrence Gravel, 1984–1990
Dr. Billy G. Cooper, 1995–1997
Dr. Billy G. Cooper, 1994–1995
Dr. Michael L. Mosley, 1994–1995
Dr. Jane Hubel, Jenkintown, 1997
Dr. Henry Bass, 2004–2012
Dr. Darby Mast, 2013–present

AAVMC 50th Anniversary Steering Committee

Dr. David Reiss, Dean, Kansas State University
Dr. Paul Price, Dean, Washington University in St. Louis
Dr. Howard Kriebel, Kansas State University
Dr. Lawrence Heider, Farnam, Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Idaho
Dr. Jane Hubel, Jenkintown, 1997
Dr. Henry Bass, 2004–2012
Dr. Darby Mast, 2013–present

CORPORATE PARTNERS:

Corporate partners are invited to affiliate with the AAVMC at various levels as part of the celebration. For more information contact AAVMC Executive Director Dr. Andrew T. Maccabe.

Platinum level
Silver level

THE BIRTH OF THE AAVMC

It was the ‘60s: Vietnam, civil rights, protests and social change. America was rising to President Kennedy’s challenge to put a man on the moon. Pets were becoming a fixture of modern family life, and veterinary medicine was coming into its own.

In 1964, a group of visionary academic leaders recognized the value of joining together to advance veterinary medical education. They filed articles of incorporation in Springfield, Illinois and the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) was born. Its goal: to foster progress in academic veterinary medicine and build a better future for the profession. It proved to be a defining moment in the history of academic veterinary medicine.

THE AAVMC TODAY

Today, the AAVMC is an agile, dynamic organization providing all the leadership, guidance and expertise in the profession, promote One Health, advance scientific research, advocate for public support, and foster leadership.

AAVMC staff and volunteers work hard every day to make sure the organization stays on track in the intrinsic challenges of its tagline: The Future of Veterinary Medicine.
Prior to the creation of the AAVMC, the duos of these colleges worked closely with the AVMA on academic matters and met informally as the Association of Deans of American Colleges of Veterinary Medicine during the AVMA’s annual convention.

The AAVMC was chartered as an independent non-profit corporation in Illinois in 1966. That was the same year the federal government passed the transformational Veterinary Medical Education Act. Founding members included all of the 18 U.S. colleges and three Canadian colleges then in existence. The deans of the colleges were designated as the member representatives. That same year, by-laws were drafted to extend membership to departments of veterinary science. The origins of the AAVMC’s Comparative Data Report were laid at the annual tri-cameral days of the organization’s founding. The deans quickly recognized that the association needed a voice in Washington to build support from Congress and executive agencies like the NIH, and former NIH staffer and AVMA employee Dr. W. Max Decker was contracted to address that. Decker would become the first formal AAVMC employee when he signed on as part-time director and treasurer in 1972. In 1972, the AAVMC Assembly was created and the organization was reconfigured into a tri-cameral structure. It consisted of three Councils: the Council of Deans, the Council of Chairs (department chairs), and the Council of Educators (individual faculty). That year was also the first year of the Iverson Bell Symposium, which was designed to enhance diversity in veterinary medicine.

In 1981, a permanent Washington office was established and Dr. Billy Hooper, former associate dean for academic affairs at the Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine, was a defining leader for the AAVMC throughout the 1970’s and 80’s and served as the JVME editor. From 1980-1994 and was a powerful voice for progress and innovation in the profession.

In 1997, the AAVMC was reorganized again. The tri-cameral structure was eliminated, new by-laws were drafted and a board of directors with an executive director as its head was established. The need for a formal presence in Washington remained paramount.

Key Federal Studies and Legislation

Over the past 50 years, the course of academic veterinary medicine has been heavily influenced by studies like the U.S. Senate’s 1961 “Veterinary Medical Science and Human Health” and the National Academy of Sciences’ “New Horizons for Veterinary Medicine” in 1972.

Those studies highlighted the growing importance of veterinary medicine to the nation’s wellbeing and led to federal government investments that expanded and enhanced academic veterinary medicine.

The Veterinary Medical Education Act of 1974 extended the provisions of the Health Professions Educational Assistance Act of 1962 to veterinary medicine. The Comprehensive Health Manpower Training Act of 1971 provided resources for bricks and mortar, loans and scholarships.

Seeking federal support and shaping legislation to advance the interests of academic veterinary medicine remains a core priority of the AAVMC.